

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2011 INFOCUS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Audrey Campbell

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

JCA
EDUCATION
CHAIR

Del Miller

DR. NESBETH

Donates \$25,000
to the JCA

JCA PAST
PRESIDENT

JCA GOLF COMMITTEE

JCA'S
NEW MEGA STAR



Celebrating 50 years **PRESENTS**

AWE
After Work Edu-tainment
music, dance, comedy, health forums etc



(A Monthly Afterwork Series, Every Third Thursday)

Starting September 22, 2011

GARVEY NIGHT

HIS JOURNEY TOLD THROUGH THE ARTS.

6:30pm to 9:00pm

The Jamaican Canadian Centre

995 ARROW RD.

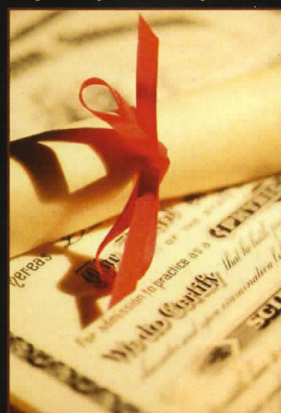


THIS IS OUR MOMENT

SATURDAY,

SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

Keynote Speaker: Ricky Neckles



**JCA 9th ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS
DINNER AND DANCE**

Music: DJ Funky

TICKETS: ADULTS \$ 45

CHILDREN \$25

Please call the JCA @ 417 677 3370
www.jcaontario.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to another edition of our Infocus Magazine. Committees and the Board typically do not meet in August. We are supposed to use this time to recharge our batteries to gear up for the busy fall/winter season. That tends to work in theory but not in practice as our Independence Gala, Golf Tournament and Quarterly Meetings are in August. We are half way through the year and it has been filled with joy as well as sadness. We have seen the JCA continue to excel in the caliber of events that we execute. Our annual July picnic was a sold out! We had three buses filled with JCA members and friends of JCA that joined together for a day filled with family and fun in Niagara Falls. We celebrated our 49th anniversary as well as Jamaica's 49th year of Independence on August 6th. The event was well attended and left everyone with anticipation of our 50th! The Board and I took the opportunity to outreach and support our community partners in their various events.

In the middle of this we have lost a number of our senior members since the beginning of the year. These individuals have in part contributed to the growth of the JCA over the past 49 years. Their dedication and commitment to the wellbeing of our Association has been unwavering. On behalf of the Association, we thank them and their families for their support.

We are gearing up for a very busy fall season. It all starts with our Senior's Brunch September 11th where we honour our elders. This year's special guest is MPP Gerry Philips who will be retiring from politics this year. We thought it would be fitting to honour him at this event considering he was once the Minister Responsible for Seniors in the Provincial Government as well as a very good friend of the JCA over the years. Please show your support and sponsor a senior for this event. Our JCA Scholarship Awards Dinner will be the following Saturday, September 17th. Heading into our 50th year we will be distributing approximately \$50,000 in scholarship and bursaries! We will end 2011 with our annual Children's Christmas Party and New Years Eve Dance.

As we move forward, I continue to issue the challenge that each and every one of us sign up a minimum of two new members. I encourage you to spread the word about the rewards of volunteering and giving back to your community. Volunteers can gain work experience, network and meet new people, learn new things and most importantly help someone else. Invite a friend, family member, son, daughter, cousin, co-worker, acquaintance to become a member of the JCA and more importantly join a committee and get involved for the betterment of our community. They can sign up on line or in person at the JCA.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff I thank you for your continued support of our beloved Jamaican Canadian Association.

Warmest regards,

Audrey Campbell



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

There were many exciting happenings at the JCA over the Summer. The Leaders In Partnership Program graduation took place on June 16th. There were 36 graduates from Brookview Middle School, Oakdale Middle School and Gerard Majella Catholic School. Del Miller, our Education Chair did the presentation of the certificates.

We just concluded our summer camp for 2011. The kids had lots of fun and learned leadership skills in the process. Funding was received through HRSDC Canada Summer Jobs program to hire two counselors. We also received a counselor through the Harriet Tubman Community Organization. Some of the highlights of the camp included trips to Lake Erie Horse Back Riding, Harriet Tubman Community Games and the Ontario Science Centre.

Tropicana Community Services has once again partnered with us to host the 2011 Summer Jobs for Youth Program. The program started on June 1st and will continue until August 31st.

We are still in the process of collecting signatures on the petition for a crosswalk and signal in the vicinity of the JCA centre. We would like to collect as many signatures as possible from the users of the JCA. Please help us with this initiative.

Our staff was recognized at the AGM and in the annual report for their years of service. Congratulations again to staff that received 5 and 10 years service awards. The JCA and CUPE Local 4772.01 have completed negotiations and now have a new 2- year collective agreement.

Finance is often viewed as the "heart" of an organization and information technology the "blood" that runs through it. During the first quarter of the fiscal year a new Information Technology Policies and Procedures manual was approved by the Board. The manual covers areas such as software licenses, hardware, email and internet usage.

Our United Way Fundraising Barbeque is planned for Tuesday, August 23rd. Last year we raised over \$500. Our 4th annual Back to School Extravaganza will be on August 25th from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm. Kids will be given backpacks and supplies to return to school. We will also be having our Social Services Strategic Planning this fall. We are very excited about this. This will provide an opportunity to merge our current strategic plan, more geared towards membership initiatives, with our social services to become one synergistic plan with two components for the next 3 years.

The JCA is blessed to have weathered the storm from a recession 2 years ago and to have avoided the upheaval experienced by other organizations administering employment and settlement programs because of funding cuts. We have so much to be thankful for.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to our financial supporters, dedicated membership, committed Board members and our loyal clients and customers.

Respectfully,

Michael A Foster
Chief Executive Officer

JCA - EDUCATION CHAIR DEL MILLER

Firstly, thank you to all the membership for their faith and show of support in me as I embark on this new role as Chair of Education & Culture. I was introduced to the JCA by Kellie Spence who brought me on board as a tutor for the Saturday Morning Tutorial Program (SMTP). Subsequently I move up the role of coordinator where I was responsible for managing the entire program with its contingent of tutors and students ranging from grades 1 to 12.

Now I have been given the opportunity to leave my mark on a well established role, with a great deal of responsibilities. Some of our programs are set for a great new season, for instance the SMTP will be having an open house and tutor recruitment drive on Saturday August 27th. We have bold aspirations for the program this season, to sign up 20 tutors and over 50 active new students, this goal is very achievable. A press release was released to the traditional media sources and we are again partnering with CHRY 105.5FM to run announcements about the program. Expectations and spirits are high for this season. Vilma Garnett did a great job with the program last year and has agreed to stay for another season; this has positioned us for a great start this season.

The 9th Annual Scholarship Award's Ceremony is set for September 17, 2011 and the team is in full swing, all the required preparations are in step - we are expecting a successful night. This year we have received over \$60,000 in scholarships and over 70 student applications. There is a demonstration of need and the community has reciprocated in trying to satisfy this need.

JCA PAST PRESIDENT

Nehemiah (Miah) Bailey Receives
Prestigious Governor General's Award

Past President of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) Nehemiah (Miah) Bailey received the Governor General's Jamaica Diaspora Award of Excellence at the Jamaican Diaspora Conference held in Jamaica, June 15 – 18, 2011.

Mr. Bailey has been quite active in the community and most deserving of this award. The membership, board and staff congratulate him on this achievement.



JCA'S NEW MEGA STAR

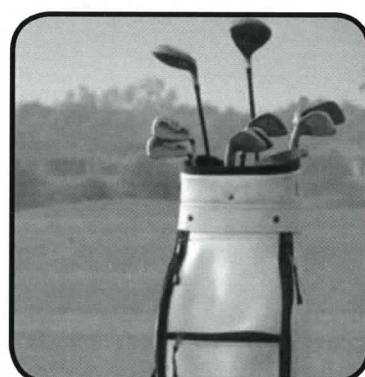
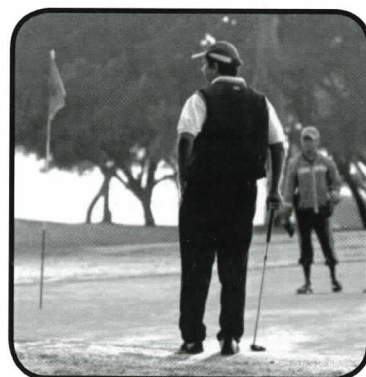
JCA has a new megastar and that is none other than the Infamous Dr. Sylvanus Thompson. Dr. Thompson has been featured in almost all the major newspapers for his tremendous contribution to the Food and Safety sector. He received the prestigious Environmental Health Foundation of Canada/National Sanitation Foundation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Food Safety in Canada. In addition, he was the first and the only African Canadian that was awarded a Canadian Health Services Foundation Fellowship for the Executive Training for Research Application (EXTRA) program in its 8 year history. The award ceremony was held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with approximately 2000 people in attendance. We are extremely proud of Dr. Thompson and encourage his hardwork and dedication not only to the Food and Safety sector but also to JCA.



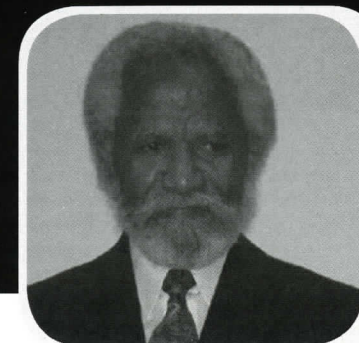
JCA GOLF COMMITTEE

The JCA 12th Annual Charity Golf Classic was held on Saturday August 13 2011, at Maples of Ballantrae Golf Club in Stouffville. The weather was great, the food was great, (thanks to Rap's Restaurant) and thanks to all our supporters, sponsors, prize donors, and golfers, it was again, a successful fund-raising event for the Association. The Dinner reception and prize giving was also held at the Golf Course. Sixty five golfers participated and they all had a great time and promised to return next year.

This is the first year the Dinner reception was held at the same venue as the golf Tournament, and it was well received. We are hoping the word will get around, so more golfers will participate next year. Since 2012 is JCA's 50th Anniversary we hope the tournament will be restored to it's peak popularity of 144 golfers. We implore all participants to register their foursomes as early as possible to reserve their spot for 2012. Please contact Keith Mills or Jim Fox for details at 647.233.1033 and 416.788.1848 respectively, or by email at kmills000@sympatico.ca.



DR. NESBETH donates \$25,000 to the JCA



Dr. Ezra Nesbeth recently launched the Dr. Ezra Nesbeth Scholarship Foundation which will award annual scholarships to African-Caribbean-Canadian youth. The Foundation was established in an effort to increase the educational opportunities for Afro-Caribbean Canadian youth. It offers financial assistance to help offset the increasing cost of post-secondary education. The scholarships will be awarded annually to gifted students who demonstrate a financial need.

The Dr. Ezra Nesbeth scholarships are being facilitated through the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) Scholarship Awards Program, an organization to which Dr. Nesbeth has been contributing to and supporting for over 25 years. After donating \$25,000 to the JCA in 2003 towards the establishment of the Dr. Ezra Nesbeth Scholarship, Dr. Nesbeth formed the Foundation as a separate entity that would focus specifically on the education of Afro-Caribbean Canadian youth. He has since contributed in excess of \$100,000.00 to this cause. A total of \$25,000 will be available from the Foundation in 2011, for 5-10 additional scholarships through the JCA Scholarship Awards program.

PR REPORT

The Public Relations (PR) team has been working tirelessly but vigilantly to achieve its goal of increasing awareness of JCA and the services offered as well as increase membership. To achieve their goal, the team has embarked on various initiatives. Firstly, the team is currently organizing a series of monthly networking events that will highlight different aspects of JCA and our Jamaican culture. A sub-committee has been formed with the support of dedicated community icons who shares the vision of creating a project that will be unlike any other JCA event; After Work Edutainment (A.W.E). The theme of these events will focus on the past 50 years of Jamaica/JCA and the future of Jamaica/JCA. These events will run from September 2011 to August 2012.

Secondly, the team is also working on a series of youtube videos which will be released by September 30th. These videos will provide a bit of background information on the JCA, its visions, missions and goals. Ideally, the videos serves to educate the wider community on JCA and the services offered as well as ways to get involved with the JCA. Included in these videos are past presidents, the board, staff and dedicated members. We thank everyone who participated and look forward to even more participation for future videos.

As always, summer is the busiest time for PR as we ensure JCA has a presence at many of the community events as possible. Some of the events that JCA had a booth were Soccerfest, Jamaica Day and Jambana accompanied by members of the membership committee. We promoted the Independence Gala, JCA services and also obtained many new memberships.

As our initiatives increase, the busier we become so we are seeking dedicated, vibrant and outgoing individuals to get involved with the PR team and to help us achieve our goals. If you or anyone you know should be interested, please email us at publicrelations@jcaontario.org.

Yolan Williams - Public Relations Chair

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

JCA's Magnificent Gala Celebration

If we could find one word to express the recent Annual 49th Independence Anniversary Gala hosted by the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA), it would be **Magnificent!** The gala held on Saturday August 6, 2011 was celebrated in fine style by hundreds at the Jamaican Canadian Centre.

The gala commemorated Jamaica's 49th year of Independence from the British colony and JCA's 49th anniversary of serving the African Canadian and Caribbean communities. In the close to half century of life the JCA has been a constantly viable entity, which has grown into one of the largest and best organized community groups in Canada.

The Keynote speaker at the gala was The Honourable Justice Michael H. Tulloch who was appointed a Judge of the Superior Court of Justice, Ontario, in September 2003. Mr. Justice Tulloch is chambered in Brampton, Ontario and presides within the Central West Region of Ontario. In his speech, Mr. Justice Tulloch alluded to the many contributions Jamaicans have made in the Canadian society and worldwide as well as the resilience exemplified in each for attaining their goals.

Jamaica's Consul General to Toronto Mr. Seth George Ramocan delivered messages from Jamaica's Prime Minister the Right Honourable Bruce Golding and Jamaica's High Commissioner to Canada Her Excellency Sheila Sealy Monteith. In Mr. Golding's message, he said the *'formation of Jamaican groups overseas such as the JCA stands as a testament of the loyalty and patriotism to Jamaica and its people displayed by members of the Jamaican Diaspora.'*

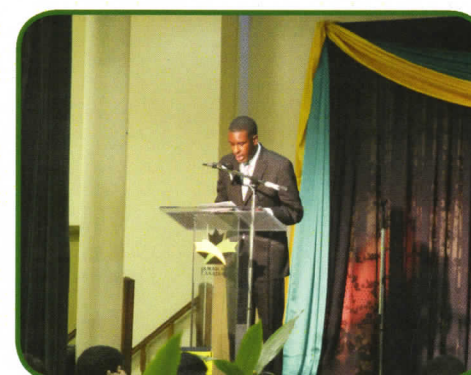
Six JCA members were recognized for their service to the Association. Eulalee Smith, Beryl Nugent and Joyce Myers received Lifetime certificates, Cyndi Anderson, 25 year certificate, Janet Samms, the President's Award and Dr. Sylvanus Thompson, Volunteer of the Year. Jamaican born Kay Blair was bestowed the Outstanding Achievement Award and Francis Jeffers, received the Community Service award for his great work among the Caribbean and black community for many years.

Commenting on the gala's obvious success, JCA President Audrey Campbell said the event was a *"fantastic precursor to the 50th anniversary next year. Of the attendees she had spoken to, all had said they were 'blown away' by the decor, the performances, the food and the overall ambiance."*

The audience was entertained by Little Michael and Elite Dance Company who received resounding applause from the audience. All in attendance danced the night away with the Arsenal's Ska Band and DJ Funky.

INDEPENDENT

GALA 2011



COMMITTEE EVENTS

ANNUAL FAMILY DAY PICNIC

The Annual Picnic was held on July 10th, 2011 which went well. Over 155 members attended the event. The children had a wonderful time. Thanks to the all the committee members, volunteers and the bus drivers. Planning for 2012 is now under way, and we welcome your feedback.

FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

This year's Flag Raising Ceremony was held at Toronto City Hall at Nathan Phillips Square, was successful thanks to the many people who helped to put the program together. Special thanks to the former Vice President and event MC Leo Campbell, Carolyn Goulbourne Warren, Janet Samms, Mary Green, Yolan Williams and Pastor Betty Cooper.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's Children's Christmas Party is scheduled to be held on Sunday, December 4th, 2011. The deadline for parents/guardians to register their children will be November 23, 2011.

Submitted by: Pam Reynolds,
Chair, Membership Services
Committee

JCA UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DINNER
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17

ANNUAL SENIORS BRUNCH
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 25

416.746.5772

www.jcaontario.org | info@jcaontario.org

